

# Food Insecurity In Washington

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Washington is #1 in  
food insecurity with  
hunger.

# **Ad Hoc Committee Formed**

**Nutrition Education Network**

**Food Stamp Office**

**WIC and State DOH**

**Depart of Comm. Development**

**Department of Education**

**Children's Alliance**

# Goals of Study

- **Inform decision makers about issue.**
- **Change agencies, as needed.**

# Questions

- How to reach the “hungriest”?
  - In food pantries
- What questions to ask?
  - What lead to hunger?
  - How managing?
  - Use of food assistance?
  - What can be done?

# Funding

- **Health Department found \$\$.**
- **Others contributed \$\$ and services.**
- **EVERYONE owned data.**
- **Marketing firm conducted focus groups.**  
**Setting up focus groups arranged by participating agencies.**

# Defining Study Took Time

**Many meetings held to build  
consensus.**

# Common Barriers and Solutions

## Barrier

Interagency  
cooperation not  
mandated

## Solution

- Personal commitments
- DOH mandated to do population-based studies
- Autonomy
- Food stamp office assigned person to study.



# Common Barriers and Solutions

## Barrier

Lack of pre-established directions.

Different definitions of success

## Study Group's Solution

- Willing to spend hours defining goals and weigh options.

# Common Barriers and Solutions

## Barrier

No Shared Goals

No Shared  
definition of  
benefits.

## Study Group's Solution

- Worked hard for common definition of study.
- Long-time goals around anti-hunger work.
- Data shared equally.

# Common Barriers and Solutions

## Barrier

No defined roles,  
job descriptions.

## Study Group's Solution

- Once study defined we discussed the jobs and people volunteered.

# Common Barriers and Solutions

## Barrier

Crossing  
organizational  
boundaries.

Rewards not built  
in to do work.

## Study Group's Solution

- Long time employees worked around organizational boundaries and defined own rewards.

# Common Barriers and Solutions

## Barrier

Planning/budget systems may not be amenable.

## Study Group's Solution

- Health department took lead.
- Contributed services or \$\$.

# Have to's

- Power

- Must understand who has, who wants/needs it. No one overstepped boundaries.

Most difficult for newest group members.

# Have to's

- Maintain communication and organizational structure
- This shifted for different phases of the study.

# Keys to Interagency Collaboration

- **Consensus about the goal of the study.**
- **Commitment of agencies for time and services.**
- **Willingness to do work and follow-through.**
- **Personalities.**



# Cost-Benefit Study

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# Collaborator

**Department of Political Science**

# Question

**Does nutrition education reduce demand  
for foods from food pantries?**

**People who participated in nutrition education had less food insecurity than non-participants.**

# Did not anticipate time to build the team

**No precedence---no job descriptions, roles or relationships, or common ground.**

**No common goals.**

# Team Building

**Develop a common vision**

**Nutrition as science**

**Audience**

**Shared benefits**

**Each discipline needed to see a reward**

**Get graduate student through.**

# Discussion of Study Methods and Roles Resolved Issues.

**Who had power to do what.**

**Who had responsibility.**

**Defined institutional barriers.**

**Budget---hardest to resolve.**

# What Is A Monetary Value Of...

- Not being hungry, food security?
- Health?
- Good use of resources?